question has accordingly been of late receiving very great and deserving attention. An impetus was given to the work when Dr. Gillson, a well known American geologist and an Indian Professor undertook to inspect the work and prescribed the lines on which the work should be carried on. A provision of Rs 21,200 has been included in the budget and investigation in the direction will be carried on in four places in Neyyattinkara Taluk and Vattiyurkavu in Trivandrum. We have already obtained the assurance that limestone available in our State will be enough to cater to the cement requirements of our State for many years to come.

Socio-economic measures.

52. To secure the contentment of the masses, apart from the socio-economic measures intended primarily for the upliftment of the depressed and the distressed, Government are endeavouring in various other directions. I shall take up the socio-economic measures first.

53. *Uplift of backward communities.* A separate department for the uplift of backward communities is functioning in the State for the past 15 years and has been doing useful work. An amount of Rs 35,000 is earmarked for this department for this year over and above the usual provision of Rs 7,500. The activities include, assignment of land for house sites and cultivation, collective acquisition of raw materials for buildings, educational concessions in schools and colleges, sinking wells in Harijan colonies and putting up of common buildings for social and religious congregations of these people.

54. *Co-operation.* Extension of co-operative facilities is another form which this form of uplift takes.

Provision has been included in the budget for the Co-operative department as usual for development of non-official co-operative efforts by issue of loans and grants to co-operative institutions. Provision has also been made for giving loans to deserving societies. Non-credit amenities are given an impetus by way of grants with a view to developing co-operative mentality. An amount of Rs 500 has also been earmarked for societies engaged in the development of cottage industries for advertisement and propaganda.

Relief of distress.

55. In view of the present condition of factory labour and their poverty and unemployment, Government propose to set apart a sum of Rs 5 lakhs from out of their revenue surplus to be credited to a fund which would bear the title "Distress Relief Fund." The amount at credit will be available

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[Mr. S. Sundararajan]

for providing work in the various public undertakings of Government and to give relief, in co-operation wherever possible with the employers, to those in real distress until employment is found for them. Such relief, will take the form of a grant of rice. A small committee consisting of some of the local officers and one or two non-officials representing organised labour and the employers respectively will be in charge of the work.

RURAL UPLIFT.

56. Another direction in which Government have for some time been endeavouring to secure the happiness of the people is under Rural Uplift. The cry "back to the villages" which we often hear elsewhere has happily for the State never been heard here. This State is more rural than urban, and it has been the declared policy of Government to develop rural areas. With this object in view, seven Village Panchayats were established under the Village Panchayat Act VII of 1100. Twenty-six Village Unions have since been newly constituted in selected localities in 26 taluks as the first instalment of a scheme for rehabilitating the Panchayat system. It is the desire of the Government to extend the scope of the scheme to as many villages as possible. They have accordingly allowed a liberal provision of Rs 60,000 under the head.

57. Government have also been fully alive to the presistent cry for more dispensaries and hospitals in rural parts and although considerations of finance have prevented them from embarking on a very ambitious policy, they feel that something should be done and it is accordingly proposed to send such of the energetic, enterprising of the unemployed medical men available to open dispensaries in the area covered by each Village Panchayat Union and themselves to finance such dispensaries in part leaving the balance to be met by the Panchayat Committees. It is also considered important that the contribution of Government should be in the shape of drugs and medicines and not cash. For the present, it is proposed to start the system with four Panchayats. I have already spoken to you of the directions in which the Veterinary Department will be serving the country including the villages. With a self-contained scheme for relief and development in all directions, it is hoped that villages will become self-sufficient although not isolated.

Other Services.

58. Under this category prominent mention should be made of the Census operations. The decennial census is proposed to be conducted early in 1941 and *inter alia* enquiries bearing on cottage industries, fragmentation of agricultural

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